

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A method for starting an internal combustion engine comprising a plurality of cylinders, each cylinder having at least one inlet valve and one exhaust valve, the method comprising the steps of:

providing spark to a first cylinder undergoing a power stroke;

opening an inlet valve of the first cylinder undergoing the power stroke; and

opening an exhaust valve of a second cylinder undergoing a compression stroke.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of opening the inlet valve comprises the step of opening the inlet valve independently of engine timing.

3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of inhibiting fueling of the first cylinder when the inlet valve is opened.

4 and 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of opening the inlet valve and opening the exhaust valve are independent of engine timing.

7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the steps of opening the inlet valve and opening the exhaust valve comprise the steps of opening the inlet valve and opening the exhaust valve electro-hydraulically or electromechanically.

8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the steps of opening the inlet valve and opening the exhaust valve comprise the steps of opening the inlet valve and opening the exhaust valve in response to an engine management system.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of inhibiting fueling of any cylinder undergoing a power stroke in response to the engine management system.

10. (Previously Amended) A method for starting an internal combustion engine having a plurality of cylinders, each of the cylinders having an inlet valve and an exhaust valve, the method comprising the steps of:

providing spark to a first cylinder undergoing a power stroke;

opening an inlet valve of the first and a second cylinder undergoing the power stroke and an intake stroke, respectively; and

opening an exhaust valve of a third and a fourth cylinder undergoing a compression and an exhaust stroke, respectively.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of inhibiting the injection of fuel during the step of opening the inlet valve of the first and

the second cylinder.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the steps of opening the inlet valve of the first and the second cylinder and opening the exhaust valve of the third and the fourth cylinder are continued until the internal combustion engine reaches a predetermined rotational speed.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of inhibiting the injection of fuel during the step of opening the inlet valve of the first and the second cylinder.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of inhibiting is terminated when the internal combustion engine reaches the predetermined rotational speed.

15. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of terminating the step of opening of the inlet valve of the first cylinder undergoing a power stroke after fuel has been injected into the cylinder on an intake stroke.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of terminating the step of opening the exhaust valve of the fourth cylinder undergoing the exhaust stroke after fuel has been injected into the cylinder on an intake stroke.

17. (Currently Amended) An engine system comprising:
an internal combustion engine having a plurality of cylinders including a first and a second cylinder;

a spark plug associated with ~~each of the plurality of cylinders~~ the first cylinder and that generates a spark to ~~each of the plurality of cylinders~~ the first cylinder during a power stroke;

~~at least one~~ an inlet valve associated with ~~each of the plurality of cylinders~~ the first cylinder;

an exhaust valve associated with the second cylinder; and

an engine management system that opens ~~at least one~~ the inlet valve of ~~each cylinder of the plurality of cylinders~~ the first cylinder performing a power stroke and opens ~~at least one~~ the exhaust valve of ~~each cylinder of the plurality of cylinders~~ the second cylinder undergoing a compression stroke.

18. (Currently Amended) The engine system of claim 17 wherein the engine management system further inhibits fuel delivery to the engine during opening of ~~at least one~~ the inlet valve.